High level Committee on Pension Reforms

528. SHRI RAMA MUNI REDDY SIRIGIREDDY: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the high level Committee on Pension Reforms for the Central Government employees has submitted its Report;

(b) whether it is a fact that the Committee recommended for a scheme that allowed a fixed rate of contribution for the employees;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) the other recommendations of the Committee?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) to (d) The Group has recommended, *inter-alia*, a scheme that combines contribution from employees and the Union Government on a matching basis, while committing to the employees a defined benefit as pension and a Voluntary Savings Scheme to which an employees may contribute at this option.

States' share from Central Taxes

529. SHRI LALITBHAI MEHTA:
SHRIMATI SAVITA SHARDA:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the share of States and Union Territories from the Central Taxes for the year 1998-99, 1999-2000 and 2000-2001 and estimated share for 2001-2002;

(b) whether it is a fact that Gujarat got share of only Rs. 1486 crores which is the lowest during the last three years;

(c) if so, the reasons for the shortfall of share to Gujarat in 2000-2001; and

(d) the total income from Central Excise, Customs and Direct Taxes of the Central Government during 1998-99, 1999-2000, 2000-2001 and from 1st April, 2001 to 31st January, 2002?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL): (a) The share of Central Taxes released to States, year wise, is as follows:—

	(Rs. in Crores)
1998-1999	39163.09
1999-2000	43509.50
2000-2001	52418.30
2001-2002 (RE)	52844.19

(b) and (c) Gujarat received Rs. 1587.80 crore in 2000-01 as its share of Union taxes and duties.

(d) The amount of Central Excise, Customs and Direct Taxes collected by the Central Government, year-wise, is as follows:

(Rs. in Crores)

	Direct Taxes	Customs	Union Excise Duties
1998-1999	46600.37	40668.27	53246.16
1999-2000	49470.48	48419.57	61907.77
2000-2001	68304.33	47542.20	68526.13
2001-2002 (Upto Dec. 2001)	44490.00	30348.00	46875.00

Payment and settlement system

530. SHRI P.N. SIVA: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to enact legislation with regard to payment and settlement system in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Reserve Bank of India has made some suggestions in this regard, if so, the details thereof; and

(d) what is Government's reaction thereto?